

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 DIWY-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /052 W
-----090204Z 118329 /14

R 081251Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5918
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AG SS
SUBJ: SAHRAOUI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

REF: (A) ALGIERS 1246 NOTAL (B) CAIRO 8573

1. AS REQUESTED REF A, EMBOFF ASKED (EGYPTIAN) SYG OF ARAB
WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR BACKGROUND ON ALGERIAN PRESS CLAIM
THAT SAHROUI WOMEN'S GROUP HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP
IN THE ALL ARAB FEDERATION.

2. ACCORDING TO SYG, WHO HAS BEEN LONG ACTIVE IN MOVEMENT,
THERE ARE PRESENTLY 16 MEMBER ORGANIZATION FROM 16 DIFFERENT
ARAB COUNTRIES. ANY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FROM A COUNTRY NOT
ALREADY REPRESENTED MAY APPLY TO JOIN. APPLICATION IS MADE TO THE
PERMANENT BUREAU AND MUST INCLUDE DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION,
PAST AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES, AND THE LIKE. SHAROU WOMEN MADE
SUCH APPLICATION AT CAIRO MEETING LAST MONTH AND BUREAU ACCEPTED
PROVISIONALLY. GROUP MAY NOW PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS RPT
OBSERVERS IN DAMASCUS MEETING IN OCTOBER, AT WHICH TIME THEY
WILL BE CALLED UPON TO DEFEND THEIR CREDENTIALS AS AN ACTIVE
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ORGANIZATION. IF THEY SUCCEED, THEY WILL BE ADMITTED.
CONTRARY TO ALGERIAN PRESS CLAIM, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ACCORDED
FULL RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN NINTH CONGRESS.

3. ALGERIAN PRESS STATEMENT THAT DELEGATION OF ARAB WOMEN WILL
BE SENT TO SOUTHWESTERN ALGERIA TO VISIT SAHROUI REFUGEE CAMPS
IS ALSO DISTORTION OF FACTS. ACCORDING TO SYG, BUREAU

REJECTED PROPOSED INVITATION BY ALGERIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION TO SPONSOR SUCH VISIT. AS RESULT, IT WAS LEFT THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF FEDERATION MAY INFORM ALGERIAN GROUP OF HERE DESIRE ACCEPT ALGERIAN INVITATION AND ALGERIAN WOMEN'S GROUP WILL PAY ALL HER EXPENSES. SHE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE TRAVELLING IN ANY OFFICIAL FEDERATION CAPACITY.

4. SIMILARLY, ALGERIAN PRESS IS INACCURATE WHEN IT STATES THAT FEDERATION BUREAU HAS DECIDED ORGANIZE DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH SAHROUI WOMEN. BUREAU DECIDED THIS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE SINCE SAHROUIS ARE NOT MEMBERS OF FEDERATION . IF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WITH PARTICIPATE IN DAY OF SOLIDARITY, THEY ARE FREE TO DO SO, BUT NOT IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

5. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, MOROCCAN EMBASSY HERE RAISED CANE WHEN BUREAU PROVISIONALLY ACCEPTED SAHROUI CREDENTIALS. SYG REMARKED WEARILY, HOWEVER, THAT MOROCCAN WOMEN HAD NOT BOTHERED TO ATTEND ANY FEDERATION MEETINGS SINCE MAY 1975 IN BAGHDAD. IF THEY WISH TO EXECISE THEIR VOTE, THEY WILL HAVE TO COME TO MEETINGS. OF 10 MEMBERS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DID ATTEND, ONLY EGYPT OPPOSED SAHROUI APPLICATION BUT IN END DID NOT VOTE AGAINST IT.

6. SYG TELLS US THAT SAHROUI PROBLEM, WHILE MAJOR HEADACHE FOR HER, DOES NOT RANK WITH DHOFAR ISSUE. APPARENTLY DHOFARI WOMEN'S GROUP APPLIED AS OMANI UNION, WAS ACCEPTED, AND WAS THEN DISCOVERED TO BE MIXED UP WITH PFLO OR LIKE-MINDED ANTI-SULTAN GROUP. OMANI AMBASSADOR IS FURIOUS AND SYG THINKS QABUS HIMSELF HAS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE ANNOYED.
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7. SYG OBSERVED IRONICALLY THAT, AS SHE HAD TOLD PROTESTING AMBASSADORS,
ARAB WOMEN'S FEDERATION IS NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP,
SEEKING TO AVOID POLITICAL PROBLEMS.
EILTS

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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